

all that follows and inserting "nor shall any deduction be made under this subsection from any widow's or widower's insurance benefit if the widow, surviving divorced wife, widower, or surviving divorced husband involved became entitled to such benefit prior to attaining age 60."; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking clause (D) and inserting the following: "(D) for which such individual is entitled to widow's or widower's insurance benefits if such individual became so entitled prior to attaining age 60.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONS FOR DETERMINING AMOUNT OF INCREASE ON ACCOUNT OF DELAYED RETIREMENT.—Section 202(w)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(w)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking "either"; and

(2) by striking "or suffered deductions under section 203(b) or 203(c) in amounts equal to the amount of such benefit".

(c) PROVISIONS RELATING TO EARNINGS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY OF BLIND INDIVIDUALS.—The second sentence of section 223(d)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)) is amended by striking "if section 102 of the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1996 had not been enacted" and inserting the following: "if the amendments to section 203 made by section 102 of the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1996 and by the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 1998 had not been enacted".

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments and repeals made by this Act shall apply with respect to taxable years ending after December 31, 1997.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINE HILL, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Township of Mine Hill, New Jersey as they commemorate the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of their community.

In the early years, Mine Hill centered around a diverse history of rich iron ore veins and active mining operations. The Delaware Indians, known as the Lenni Lenape were aware of the iron outcroppings and named the area Succasunny meaning "black stone". The settlers realized the potential and developed the "black stone" into a profitable commodity. Some of the mines date back to the Revolutionary War when iron ore was provided to nearby forges.

Because the iron ore was one of the finest quality and in such great abundance, mining, not farming became the primary industry in the area. This led to the development of the Village of Mine Hill. Mine Hill is also known for the Dickerson Mine, named after Governor Mahlon Dickerson, a resident of Mine Hill and Governor of New Jersey from 1815 to 1817. The Dickerson Mine was the first and oldest iron mine in the state.

The Township of Mine Hill is a small community of approximately 2.95 square miles, located in central Morris County. In 1993, this quiet community was recognized by the Federal government as having one of the best elementary schools in the country. The Canfield

Avenue School was named a Blue Ribbon School which means that it placed in the top 200 schools in the United States in quality of education.

Once a prominent iron mining community, Mine Hill has kept its small town American identity. The 75th anniversary of Mine Hill's incorporation is a great achievement. It is a time for celebration and reflection for the residents.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Township of Mine Hill Township on this important milestone.

IN OPPOSITION TO RIGGS AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. SNOWBARGER Mr. Chairman, I rise to explain my opposition to the Riggs Amendment to H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

The principal purpose of our important civil rights reforms, now more than thirty years old, was to help eradicate systematic and structural racism. Our hope was to keep the government and its agents from treating people differently because of their race or ethnicity. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said the law cannot make us love one another. We can, however, work together to ensure that, at the very least, our government sees its citizens as individuals. Each one is unique and worthy of respect.

Affirmative action, which originally meant ensuring that all should have the opportunity to compete on their merits, has now become a persistent challenge to these principles of fairness. If our government, through quotas and set-asides, continues to treat Americans differently because of their race or ethnicity, it becomes even harder to eliminate racism wherever it festers.

The amendment to the Higher Education Act Reauthorization offered by Representative FRANK RIGGS was mostly consistent with these principles of fairness and equal opportunity for all. Representative RIGGS' amendment would have prohibited preferential admissions treatment based in whole or in part on the race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin of applicants by institutions of higher education. A special exemption was included in the amendment to exempt preferential treatment on the basis of affiliation with an Indian tribe by any tribally controlled college.

I opposed the amendment because I was concerned that Haskell Indian Nations University, which is located in my district, would be adversely affected by the amendment. Haskell Indian Nations University is the only federally owned and operated four-year institution for Native Americans in the country. Because the University is controlled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and not by a tribe, I felt that it would not qualify for the exemption included in the Riggs amendment.

Additionally, I opposed this amendment because I believe that we must seek to end policies that discriminate. This cannot be done in a piecemeal fashion. We must reach out to all groups to ensure that all Americans have equal access to opportunities. Quotas and set-asides undermine our effort to secure this for everyone.

For these reasons, I opposed the amendment.

NORMAN THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the generous efforts of 560 Norman Thomas Elementary School students and staff in Freer, Texas, to collect thousands of cans and boxes of food for the Freer Food Bank. The school's venture helped stock the pantries of 70 neighbors in desperate need of food.

This good deed is especially remarkable because about two-thirds of the Norman Thomas Elementary School students qualify for free or reduced school lunches. Despite the personal challenges many of these students face they saw a need to help those less fortunate than themselves and learned a very valuable lesson while volunteering in their community.

For their efforts the school was recognized with a community award by the USA Weekend magazine sponsored by Make a Difference Day. The students and staff at Norman Thomas Elementary School have made a difference which will help feed people in their community. Volunteering in one's community sets a high standard for better living. And such a young group of individuals accomplishing community goals means Freer, Texas, will look forward to a fruitful future.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Zachary Hicks, a student at Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu, who recently won the 1998 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for Hawaii.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsor the Voice of Democracy contest to recognize writing and oratorical skills of students. Zachary Hicks related the democracy demonstrations of Tianamen Square in the People's Republic of China to the freedoms to enjoy and the need to exercise freedom of speech.

I would like to share the script with the House and America, Mr. Speaker, which I am submitting. I am certain Leon and Brenda Hicks, Zac's parents, as well as his teachers and fellow students at Hawaii Baptist Academy, have great pride in Zac and his accomplishment.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

(By Zachary Hicks)

Not long ago, a number of young men and women broke out in protest of a government they did not believe in. With fear overpowered by conviction, these students stared communism in the face and said, "We will no longer be shut up, pushed down, and unheard." That night in Tianamen Square, the cries for a democracy rang out loud and